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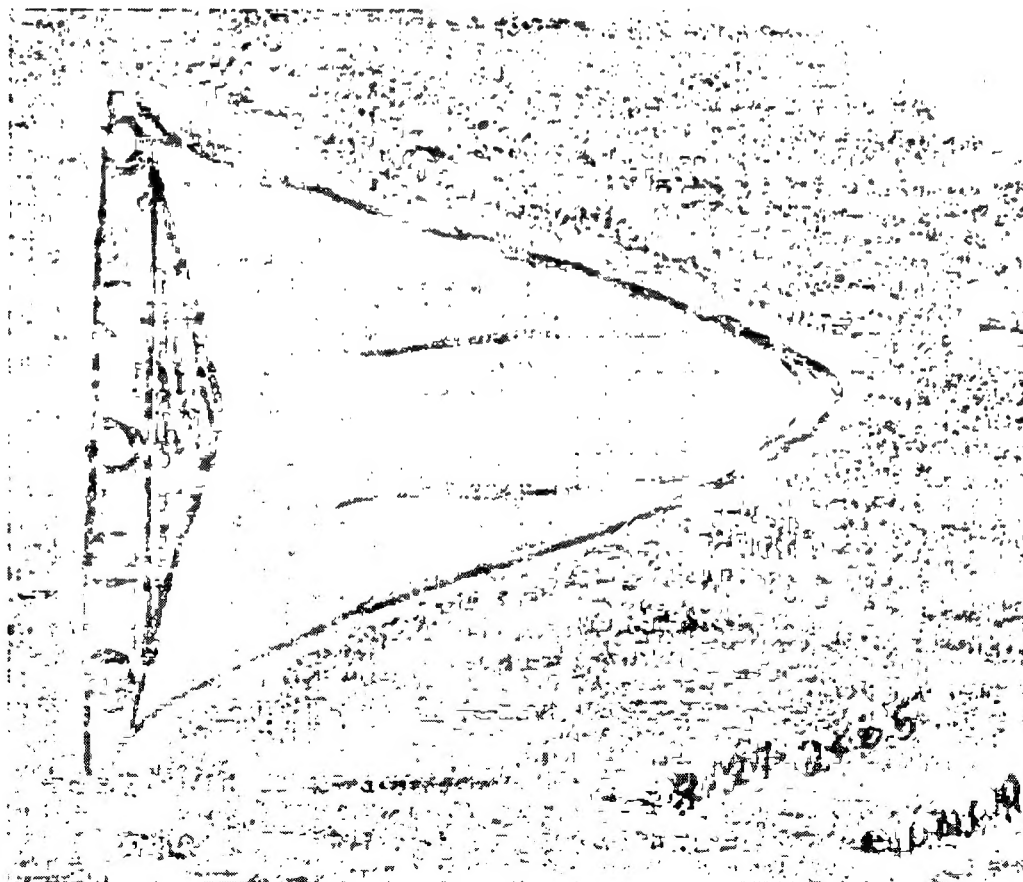
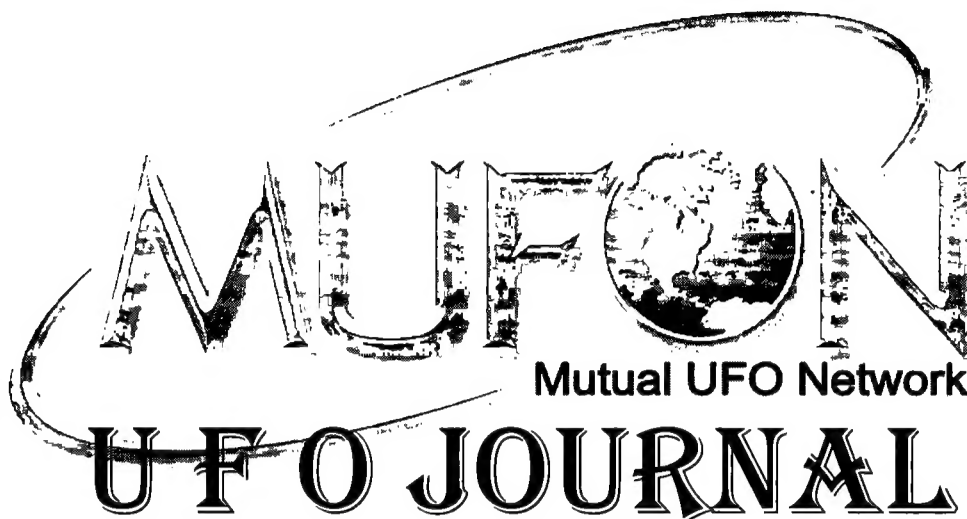
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The sighting of this object was only the beginning of a Midwestern encounter which involved strange odors, physical traces, and possible illness. The article begins on page 3.

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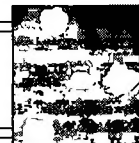
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Director's Message

By John F. Schuessler



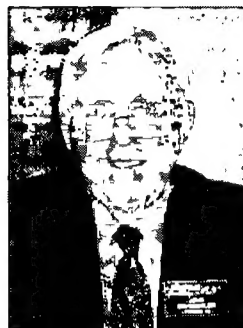
John & Kathy Schuessler to retire

After six years at the helm of MUFON, Kathy and I have decided it is time to step down.

As you all know, MUFON now has an announced Mission with Goals and Strategies aimed at keeping MUFON on track.

And the organization is now guided by an excellent Business Board of Directors. MUFON is financially stable and funds are being allocated for special projects like the Pandora document scanning project.

We have an outstanding new Director of Investigations who will implement a host of improvements in the investigations realm. Our *MUFON UFO Journal* edited by Dwight Connelly is



John Schuessler

receiving accolades from members all over the world.

At the annual July meeting of the Business Board we discussed succession planning for key MUFON personnel. This was stimulated by my notification back in January that Kathy and I would like to retire by the end of 2006.

It was clear that all board members were capable of running MUFON, but many of them were not in a position in their careers that they wanted to make the change right now.

Finally, after thorough deliberation, the board concluded that my successor should be **James Carrion** of Bellvue, CO.

This decision was made by examining the needs of MUFON, where our strategic plan was aiming to take the organization in the future, and how well James' background matched the MUFON needs.

With James also living in Colorado, we can coordinate the hand-over of the International Director's job from me to

(Continued on page 22)

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MUFON's mission is the scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity through investigation, research, & education.

Sighting, odors, physical traces, & illness in Midwest encounter

By William Puckett

MUFON Field Investigator

A bizarre adventure awaited Dottie and Danny Phillips upon embarking on a trip from Eagle Rock, MO, to a resort near Mount Gilead, OH.

They left home in their truck and camper at about 3 PM on Aug. 23, 2005. By midnight they were heading east on I-70 a few miles west of Indianapolis.

Dottie (primary witness) was driving, and noticed what appeared to be a fire to the north. (See the encounter 1 location on map.) She saw lights rising from the fire which appeared to follow their vehicle.

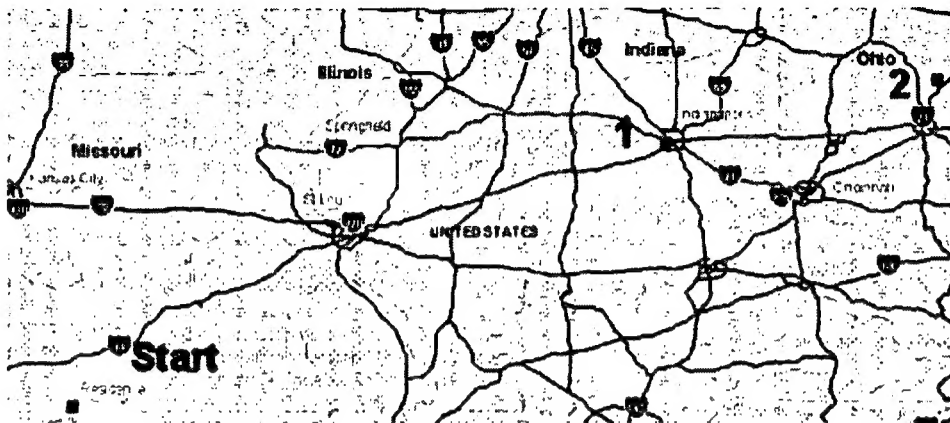
She immediately noticed a strong odor similar to creosol, burnt tar, and sulfuric acid.

They continued their journey, and a couple of hours later pulled off the side of the road to get some sleep. They awoke around daylight and continued their journey, stopping for breakfast and running a few errands along the way. They arrived at the Ohio resort about 2 PM.

At about 6 PM on Aug. 24 the couple left the resort and drove to Danny's father's house in nearby Marion, OH. They arrived at about 7 PM and left about 10:45 PM. Eastbound on highway 95, they noticed a large light to the north.

They turned north onto highway 61. It was about midnight, and they were five miles down the road when they saw a large craft directly ahead of them and over the highway. (See front cover, and note the encounter 2 location in the map.)

They passed directly underneath the craft. Again they smelled a very strong odor similar to that from their first encounter. The craft was moving slowly



towards the east-northeast.

Effects of encounters

Dottie noticed that her new shoes, which were never worn before the trip, had begun to peel after the first encounter near Indianapolis. After the second encounter, the surface of the shoes began to flake and peel. (See photo on following page.)

The day after the second encounter, black residue from the shoes collected on a carpet of a relative's house.

The couple returned home to Eagle Rock on Aug. 30. Dottie reported her incident near Indianapolis to the FBI office in Indianapolis.

The FBI said that no fire had occurred on the date and location seen by the couple, and they criticized Dottie for not reporting the incident sooner.

Dottie then called Homeland Security and reported both incidents. Homeland Security said that they couldn't investigate, due to being involved with Hurricane Katrina.

Dottie also reported the incidents to the local sheriff, and was met with skepticism.

The medical diagnosis

Both Danny and Dottie were not feeling well when they returned to Eagle Rock. Dottie had severe digestive problems, was coughing a lot, and had

red blotches over her skin. She also noticed that black flakes would fall when she brushed her hair.

Danny had similar symptoms. Dottie had some pre-existing medical problems, but these problems were different. She finally saw a physician on Oct. 11, and told the doctor about her UFO encounters.

The doctor was not surprised, and seemed to have knowledge of physical effects caused by being in the vicinity of UFOs. (He worked for NASA under a grant for the University of Arkansas to find evidence of extraterrestrial life.¹)

He diagnosed Dottie's illness as chemical pneumonia and severe kidney infection. He told her that any radiation effects "from these kinds of things will be the dissipating kind."

Dottie visited the same doctor two weeks later, and the treatment which had been prescribed by the doctor was working. Recently, however, both Dottie and Danny have become quite ill.

Dottie has been diagnosed with a neural disorder that apparently can be caused from chemical exposure. Danny is also having severe digestive problems.

Chemical analysis of the shoes (see discussion below) suggests that phenols

could have been the substance responsible for leaching of the material from the surface of the shoes.

Some of the symptoms experienced by Dottie (and Danny) are characteristic of inhalation exposure to phenols.^{2,3}

Physical effects from close encounters with UFOs are not common, but do occur. The encounter of Betty Cash, Vicky Landrum, and Vicky Landrum's grandson (Colby) on Dec. 29, 1980, in Texas is well known.⁴ Also, the case of Steven Michalak getting burned by a UFO near Falcon Lake, Manitoba, Canada on May 20, 1967,^{5,6} has been well publicized.

Analysis by Puckett

I requested that Dottie mail the shoes to me when she first reported the encounter. I asked her to pack the shoes in a sealed plastic bag in order to preserve any traces resulting from the encounter.

Upon receipt of the shoes I immediately photographed them and tested for radiation and magnetism. Radiation was not significantly above background, and there was no appreciable magnetism.

The plastic bags which contained the shoes were filled with black flakes peeling from the shoes. I also tested the bags for the above properties, and did not find any unusual readings.

I then contacted Phyllis Budinger of Frontier Analysis Ltd to see if she would analyze the shoes. She expressed interest, and I immediately mailed one of the shoes to her.

Analysis by Budinger

Mrs. Budinger conducted a thorough analysis to determine the composition of the boots, and to see if there was any unusual residue on the boots. Her complete report is available on the UFOs Northwest website.⁷

The shoes were subjected to infrared spectroscopic analysis, pH tests, and UV fluorescence.

Infrared spectroscopy is used for the molecular structure identification and quantitation of solids, liquids, and gases. An infrared spectrum is the result of light (in the 2 to 25 micron wavelength range) interacting with the vibra-



The shoes.

tions of molecules.

The particular set of vibrations of a molecule gives rise to specific spectral absorption bands, often referred to as the "fingerprint" spectrum.

Phyllis also tested the boots for radiation. The results of her analysis and conclusions follow:

"1. No unusual materials were detected on the shoe. The shoe is covered with fake suede, i.e. polyester urethane MBI (MBI = Methylene Bisphenyl-isocyanate), which is one of the monomeric units of the polymer.

"The outer surface of the suede also has some polydimethylsiloxane, which is commonly used as a water repellent. Soil particulates were found on the sole and heel of the boot.

"2. Black particulates found in the plastic bag containing the shoe are fake suede polyester urethane MBI, obviously from the shoe.

"3. Though not analyzed, I speculate the black substance reported to be on the relative's carpet was also some of the shoe material.

"4. It is most unusual that the polyester urethane "suede" came off the shoe. With the absence of any unusual foreign substances, I can offer two speculations why this occurred:

"The witness described a creosol, sulfuric acid, and tar odor during the event. This is an important clue. Creosol contains phenolic-type materials, among other things.

"If the shoe was exposed to these materials, there is a very real possibility they caused the adhesive to fail.

Immergut's *The Polymer Handbook*⁸ lists only four materials known to attack/dissolve poly(urethane).

"These are phenol, m-cresol (a phenolic derivative), formic acid, and sulfuric acid. Formic acid and sulfuric acid were eliminated by pH tests.

"This leaves the phenols, which is supported by the witnesses' description of the odor. Also, phenolics sublime, and would have been long gone by the time the shoe was received for analysis.

"For the second (less likely) speculation, I offer that the shoe became wet during the encounter. This caused a loss of adhesiveness due to improper bonding of the urethane glue to the fake suede during manufacture. Partially uncured urethane adhesive was found in the boot."

Dottie said that the only rain on their trip occurred near Springfield, MO, where they stopped to eat. This was early on the trip on Aug. 23. She said that Danny parked the truck close to the restaurant so they wouldn't get wet.

The National Weather Service in Springfield, MO, reported 0.14 inches of rain on Aug. 23.⁹ Given that Dottie and Danny were parked close to the restaurant, and that only light rainfall was reported, it is likely that only the soles of the boot would have become wet.

Summary/conclusion

This case is strengthened in that we have physical evidence that something unusual apparently happened to the new shoes to strip them of surface material.

The suggestion that phenolic-type compounds may have been the cause is in itself bizarre. As with all UFO cases, much of the validity of this case rests with the credibility of the witnesses. No other witnesses besides Danny and Dottie have been found.

I have had several interviews with Dottie, and believe that she is credible. I have also been able to verify information provided by her, such as the background of her physician.

I did not interview Danny because he has a condition that would make interviewing very difficult. Dottie told me

that Danny did suffer some of the same symptoms that she did.

Currently both Danny and Dottie are not in good health. Dottie has been diagnosed with a neural disorder similar to multiple sclerosis. Danny has severe digestive disorders.

Dottie's doctor thinks that the neural disorder could be due to chemical exposure from the August, 2005, encounters.

Like many UFO cases, this case generates more questions than answers. What was this craft? Why did the witnesses have two encounters on successive nights and experience the same "strong odor"?

This case is ongoing. For updates on this case, please visit the UFOs Northwest web site.⁷

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Papers, reports, audio tapes archived at UA

Scientist, ufologist James McDonald's voice speaks again to researchers

By Ann Druffel, Vincent Uhlenkott, & Ralph McCarron

From April 1966, through February, 1971, the UFO research field was blessed with the presence of a prestigious scientist, Dr. James E. McDonald, an internationally-renowned atmospheric physicist and climatologist.

Alone among scientists at that time, Jim McDonald, as he was known to us in the field, had the courage to speak out openly, stating that his own private research into UFO sightings by the public and military sources had convinced him that the UFO phenomenon was a serious question that was being badly neglected by the scientific community at large.

For five unforgettable years, the scientifically-oriented lay research field had an invaluable and unforgettable colleague, working side by side with investigators from NICAP (National Investigations Committee On Aerial Phenomena) and other objective groups.

He also worked privately with a few scientists in the field who could not come out openly with their UFO interest for fear of damaging their own careers and reputations.

Perhaps most astonishing of all, McDonald began actively interacting with numerous other scientists in the Establishment, who crowded to hundreds of talks he gave at scientific conferences, symposia, and other scientific meetings at military installations and other governmental venues.

He convinced many in the Establishment that UFOs did, indeed, need to be studied seriously, and a few of the most prestigious scientific organiza-

tions began taking up the subject earnestly.

Then, in April, 1971, our entire research field was shocked and saddened when we learned that Jim McDonald had apparently taken his own life in the desolate desert outside his home city of Tucson, AZ.¹

The loss of Jim to our field was inestimable, but we never forgot the "McDonald years," as those five years between 1966 and 1971 came to be called.

Slowly, however, the interest of the scientific community which McDonald had inspired faded away without the benefit of his physical presence, his unlimited persistence, and his ability to retrieve previously-unknown empirical evidence of the reality of UFOs from military and governmental sources.

During the McDonald years, of course, Jim never neglected his own professional work; his voluminous contributions to cloud physics and climate modification continued.

He was active on numerous government research commissions, and many of his projects were funded by grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), NASA, and other top agencies.

He had simply added UFO research to his already crowded schedule. McDonald's basic personality could not allow him to let any scientific problem he encountered go unstudied, and everywhere he spoke, or met with UFO colleagues, whether lay or scientific, his humorous, vital presence enlivened the room.

In the early 1990s, through a synchronistic occurrence, this author (Druffel) re-established contact with Betsy McDonald, Jim's widow, who still lived with some of the members of their family in their Tucson home.



McDonald

It was learned that McDonald's UFO archives were still being carefully guarded in a special room there, which the family lovingly referred to as "the UFO room."

During re-contact with Betsy McDonald, which at first involved a screenplay Druffel had written about McDonald's UFO research, the idea of archiving Jim's UFO files came to the fore.

McDonald's atmospheric physics and climatology projects had been carefully preserved at the University of Arizona at Tucson at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP), where he had taught and conducted research.

UFO files not archived

Although his "scientific" work had been carefully archived and preserved, his UFO files had not.

After the Condon Report was published in 1969, apparently dismissing all the evidence McDonald and the UFO field had gathered over the years, he had planned to take a sabbatical and write a book which would be a full rebuttal of Condon's illogical "report," as well as a general text outlining the extreme urgency that the UFO phenomenon be accepted as a legitimate subject for interdisciplinary study.

His 17 years of study (including eleven years of private research in and around the Tucson area between 1954 and 1965) had convinced him that the UFO problem was one of the most serious scientific questions of our times.

Shortly before McDonald died, he wrote a letter to Betsy, stating his concern that his voluminous UFO files not be simply burned after his death, but archived in some form so that capable researchers could use them in further studies on the UFO phenomenon.

Of particular concern to him were hundreds of Blue Book radar-visual (R-V) sighting files which he had acquired in 1970 at Maxwell AFB, a few months after Project Blue Book was officially ended.

Dismayed by the possibility that the Air Force would simply destroy all Blue Book files because the Condon Report had brushed off the entire subject as not being of scientific value, McDonald

spent two weeks studying the R-V files there.

He was astonished and excited by the wealth of data in them that had not been revealed. It was information like these R-V files, which he realized would never be archived by any of his academic colleagues, that prompted him to write to Betsy:

"My present best suggestion is that [my UFO files] be archived at the UA Library, though maybe they'll view that as presumptuous. Actually, for someone who came along later, that's a mine of UFO material, and library archiving is in many ways the cleanest.

"It's at least not destroyed, even if only boxed away for years.... Its scientific value is, I think, quite large.... a collection of reference material on a subject still controversial, worked on by one UA professor, and possibly destined to assume very considerable importance later on—particularly as science-history source material.... I'd sure hate to see all that stuff burnt...."²

NICAP personnel and the UFO field in general never recovered from the loss of this remarkable man. After the scientific community quietly dropped their interest in UFOs, which McDonald had inspired, all that was left were his files.

Limited access

At first, Betsy McDonald permitted a few UFO researchers limited access to them, including Richard Greenwell, who assisted her in arranging the files and books into more convenient form.

Paul McCarthy then accessed some of the files for a doctoral thesis, and shortly afterwards, David Jacobs used some of the files while writing his book, *The UFO Controversy in America*.

During this period an Australian scientist inquired about the Blue Book R-V files which had so enthused McDonald.

Betsy, herself a highly educated person, obtained proof from this scientist that he possessed the necessary expertise in atmospheric physics, astronomy, and radar systems which McDonald felt was necessary to extract the data effectively.

After he had demonstrated his expertise in these fields, she allowed him

to copy the R-V files. At first it seemed he was actually going to attempt to extract the data which McDonald felt could provide a type of "physical evidence" so badly needed in the UFO field.

Suddenly, however, the scientist was offered a large grant, apparently from the Australian government, to pursue an entirely different project, and he dropped his interest in UFOs.

Betsy McDonald became engrossed in her own work pursuits, which took her to various out-of-state cities for years at a time, and could no longer screen the numerous persons who requested access to the files, and NICAP had essentially been destroyed by 1970 by government agents who had infiltrated top administrative positions.

Access ended

By the mid-1970s, she cut off access to researchers who approached her, because the changes which were occurring in the UFO field disturbed her.

She felt that the field had become chaotic, particularly the attention being paid to "abduction" reports which could not be scientifically verified, and that the strictly objective approach which McDonald had employed was no longer dominant.

So the files lay unused for over 15 years until re-contact in the early 1990s by Druffel, who had known and worked with McDonald in conjunction with NICAP activities, particularly Southern California sightings and photo cases.

Betsy shared McDonald's letter in which he had expressed the deep hope that his UFO files could be archived and made accessible to future researchers.

Dr. A. Richard Kassandra, former director of the IAP and McDonald's good friend, made initial contact with the University of Arizona Library, Tucson, and the Special Collections Section agreed to house them. The curator there, Mr. Roger Myers, gave invaluable help and encouragement during this process.

The Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR) generously granted \$2,400



Ann Druffel with Betsy McDonald at her home amid the 29 boxes of McDonald's files, audio tapes, and recording equipment, May, 1996.

to archive the files. Archiving required acid-free file folders, plastic Mylar sleeves for photos, and special storage boxes for other materials in order to insure their preservation.

As the work continued, involving five trips from the Druffel home in Pasadena, CA, to Tucson, McDonald's contributions to UFO research proved even more immense than anyone had realized.

All together, there were about 1,200 files, each on a different UFO-related subject.

Besides the voluminous files in the "UFO room," McDonald's former secretary, Margaret Sanderson-Rae, then a publications editor, found many other UFO-related items at the IAP which were added to the original collection.

Other academic colleagues at IAP, including Dr. Benjamin Herman and Dr. William Sellers, searched out other items in storage which were added to McDonald's UFO files.

In all, the archiving took four years. As the complexity of the files became clearer, additional archival materials had to be obtained, and the Fund for UFO Research graciously increased their grant to \$3,500 to cover various unexpected expenses.

In May, 1996, 29 boxes comprising McDonald's entire UFO files—which filled an entire corner in the

McDonald's living room—were moved to the Special Collections Section of the library.

Druffel's husband, Charles K., paying all of his own expenses, accompanied her on this trip and helped with some of the final archiving duties.

In addition to the boxed materials, the collection includes computer listings of McDonald's 400-book UFO library and an itemized catalog of the 1,200 file folders.

Handwritten journals

The collection also includes McDonald's four handwritten journals, dated 1958 through 1971, which outlined his 17 years in the UFO field.³

Two of these had been fully transcribed by Druffel, with Betsy McDonald's invaluable help. These journals, prior to the archiving, were totally unknown to anyone in the field.

The UFO archives are housed in the Personal Collections Section, where they are available to the public in a carefully-guarded Reading Room

They include hundreds of files containing McDonald's research on UFO cases, classic and otherwise, as well as correspondence and other materials connected with his numerous seminars and symposia talks before scientific groups. This section filled 15 storage boxes alone.

The file names are, for the most part,

those originally selected by McDonald. The collection continues with the 580 Project Blue Book R-V files photocopied by McDonald at Maxwell AFB.

These are in four boxes, filed chronologically by date, as McDonald originally arranged them. The dates on these R-V files begin with "June 1947, Hamburg, NY," and end with "July 11, 1968, Nielson AFB, Alaska."

There is also a collection of 16 large vinyl binders. Binder #6 might be of special interest, as its contents seem to be a preliminary outline of the book which McDonald had planned to write, rebutting the Condon Report.

The other binders contain Projects Sign, Grudge, and Blue Book sightings and other materials related to AF involvement in UFO research.

Box #21 contained eight thick magazine holders, in which McDonald had placed miscellaneous information, including propulsion theories related to UFOs.

Biographical material includes the Memorial Resolution prepared and signed by several of McDonald's IAP colleagues upon the event of his death. This remains the most fitting biographical sketch to describe McDonald's academic life and scientific contributions.

Also included is a biographical article by Ann Druffel, published in *IUR* (*International UFO Reporter*), a quar-

terly publication of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, IL.

Soon to be published is a 600-page biography of McDonald's involvement in the UFO research field based mainly on materials archived here.⁴

A very large cardboard box, #29, contained special materials which were impossible, at the time, to actually "archive," for it contained McDonald's numerous audio tapes and his Sony tape recorder.

These tapes included numerous interviews held with witnesses, many of his talks at scientific conferences and symposia (including Q & A sessions), and private conversations with colleagues and military personnel.

Sixty-one reel-to-reel tapes were in his own Steelmaster File, which McDonald had labeled "No. 1." Most of these were interviews with UFO witnesses.

A second Steelmaster file drawer, labeled "No. 2," contained dozens more tapes with subjects ranging from radio/TV appearances, more conference/symposia talks, taped letters, suspected "UFO sounds," and other data relating to specific sightings.

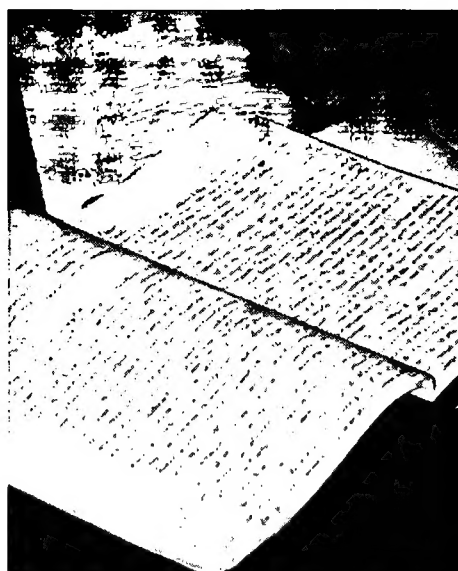
Most were dated and identified; others are identified but undated; others are neither identified nor dated. They included 7-inch, 5-inch, and 3-inch reels.

The entire aggregate of Jim McDonald's UFO files, including the audio tapes, was donated to the Library by Betsy McDonald in May, 1996, and the copyright to the entire collection is now held by the Board of Regents of the University of Arizona.

Some of McDonald's tapes were plainly audible when played on his small, portable recorder at his Tucson home; others were almost inaudible due to static and hum.

At the time of delivery of the archives, however, Curator Roger Myers determined that, since these 25-year old reel-to-reel tapes were very fragile, they would not be available to the public at that point.

McDonald's paper files, however, as described above, were ready to be accessed by the public, and it was not



McDonald's handwritten journals detailing years of UFO research.

long before researchers, including some prominent in the field, began to flock to the site.

The archives comprise a collection of approximately 1400 labeled files with handwritten and typed case investigations on UFO sightings by military pilots, tower control officials, law enforcement officers, fellow scientists, and other reliable and credible citizens, 1945-1970, and some investigations include photos/soil samples, etc.

UFO cases concern mostly American, Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand sightings, and some European cases.

The files include McDonald's correspondence from 1958-1971 with various government and military officials and other scientific and professional civilian UFO researchers

Also included are papers and talks (printed and recorded) before various scientific conferences and symposia and other academic groups, 1966-1970.

Blue Book reports

Case files include photocopies of approximately 580 Project Blue Book (Air Force official investigations) sighting reports, mostly by military and civilian pilots and airborne and ground radar verification.

McDonald's collection of more than 400 books on UFO and related topics are incorporated into the main University Library, but a catalogue of these

books is included in these archived materials to facilitate the searcher in locating desired volumes.

Requests for permission to publish materials from this collection should be discussed with the Personal Collections curator. Credit should be given at all times to Dr. James E. McDonald whenever applicable."

The audio tape project

The memory of the audio tapes, which could not be made available to researchers because of their fragile condition, continued to haunt certain members of the UFO field.

This included Vincent Uhlenkott, a prominent veteran ufologist in the Los Angeles area, longtime field investigator and former Director of MUFON-So. CA.

Uhlenkott and Druffel applied for another grant from FUFOR in order to have Jim McDonald's invaluable audio tapes converted to modern technology, which could then be accessed at the Library by interested parties.

FUFOR was again most generous, and another grant was approved in the early 2000's. Uhlenkott took on the task of finding the most suitable, technically-proficient professional to accomplish the daunting task.

At first it was thought best to transfer the 1966's reel-to-reel tapes onto audio cassette. After discussing the project with several experts, however, it was decided that newer and better technology was becoming available, and it was eventually decided to use CDs.

This first step took several months. Druffel journeyed to Tucson together with husband Charles K. to bring all of McDonald's tapes back to Los Angeles.

This was a daunting task in itself, since it involved persuading the airline personnel to fit them into the interior of the plane itself so that they could be carefully watched during the flight.

Once the tapes and equipment arrived safely in the Los Angeles area, it took several weeks to find a skilled person to transfer the tapes onto CDs.

Badie Youssef was known to Uhlenkott, and this accomplished tech-

nician felt he had the spare time necessary to complete the task.

We all realized that the FUFOR grant could give only a minimal payment for such difficult work, but Youseff was a generous individual, as is necessary for almost everyone who works in the UFO field.

When he began the transfer, however, he realized that some of the tapes were almost unintelligible, due to hum, static, and other electrical interference.

Youseff spent considerable time searching for modern means to clean them up. He eventually found software that would do a fairly good job, but the editing proved very time-consuming.

Youssef managed to convert some of McDonald's 3-inch reels, and although some of the resultant CDs were acceptable, the quality of many others was not. He persisted, however, began to get better results, and accomplished the transfer of 25 tapes in acceptable form.

A problem arises

Then an unexpected occurrence in California interrupted the process: the California Department of Water and Power (DWP) experienced what became known as "the energy crunch."

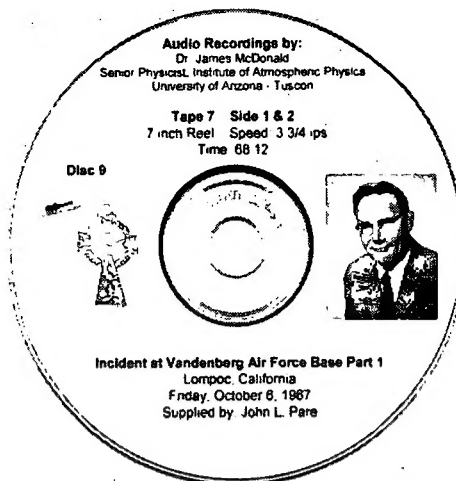
Since Youseff was a high-level employee at the DWP, the power company gave him additional responsibilities needed to handle the then-unprecedented crisis. No longer did he have any spare time at all!

Generously, Youseff returned a great portion of the FUFOR money that had been forwarded to him after he found that his DWP professional responsibilities made it impossible for him to continue the transfer.

Uhlenkott discovered that Ralph McCarron, a professional audio/visual expert who is on the Board of Directors of MUFON-LA and extremely active in the UFO field, thought he would have the time for the job.

He accepted the task of converting McDonald's reel-to-reel tapes to digital format, using state-of-the-art technology available in his self-owned company, Wolf Video.

This firm does video editing, video production, CD/DVD authoring, and



One of the modern discs produced by Ralph McCarron from the fragile tapes.

Internet web design. As it turned out, however, we had grossly underestimated the size of the task, including additional tape recorder problems which arose in McDonald's 1960s equipment.

Altogether, the work comprised:

- ◆ Eighty-three 1 7/8 ips (inches per second), 3-inch reel to reel tapes, 166 hours of record time.

- ◆ Ten 3 3/4 ips, 5-inch reel to reel tapes, 20 hours of record time.

- ◆ Twenty 3 3/4 ips, 7-inch reel to reel tapes, 80 hours of record time.

The difficulties encountered during the "cleanup" of the reel-to-reel tapes can be regarded as either devastating or humorous, depending on the attitude of the reader.

It is vital, however, to understanding particular problems encountered early on in the audio-transfer, since these difficulties add to the extreme value, and appreciation of, the final results to the UFO community and to individual researchers who will use them in future UFO research.

After some time, Uhlenkott's tape player/recorder also started having playback problems. He changed the belt, and for a while the unit worked well, but soon it developed similar difficulties which McDonald's recorder had displayed.

Rob Swiatek, who handled the grant funds for FUFOR, agreed that another recorder could be purchased on eBay,

and that the Fund would reimburse its cost.

For each tape, McCarron used Druffel's original notes associated with the tape collection to make sure the names, spellings, and dates associated with each recording were correct.

And on most of his tapes, McDonald himself would state the date, the time, the location, the event, and in the case of personal sighting interviews he spelled out the name of each witness.

At times, Swiatek of FUFOR and Richard Hall (also at the time with FUFOR) would help out with names and dates.

On some of the tapes, however, no pre-information had been recorded, but unless it was a famous UFO case, or known to Druffel, Uhlenkott, Hall, or Swiatek, nothing could be found about it, even on the Internet!

As a result, some spellings of persons' names may be incorrect in the finished product, but in those instances a question mark is added next to the name or date.

On recordings with even less information, the file will read, for example, "Dr. James McDonald Interviews Unknown Man" or "Dr. James McDonald Interviews Frank (Last Name Unknown).

McCarron discovered an easy way to name the files so that they could be organized easily, so that each file (CD) corresponds with the original reel-to-reel tape.

That way, looking back at the original WAV files, one could determine from which reel and which side the recording came.

In order to complete the job within the FUFOR funding grant, it was necessary for McCarron to work at his regular self-owned business, and squeeze in the transferring tasks whenever there was spare time.

Once finished, the project ended up being archived on 110 CD-R's for playback on various types of equipment available at the U. of A. Library.

In addition, the original uncompressed (WAV) files were backed up on 18 data DVD-R's.

Then, to complete the work to true

state-of-the-art technology, these 18 data DVD-R's were processed into Windows Media Audio (WMA) files and MP3 files.

The WMA or MP3 files could be used (should the Board of Regents later decide) for streaming off a web server for Internet playback. Also WMA and MP3 files can be played on most new media players like the iPod or any other current DVD/CD players.

The beauty of the WMA and MP3 files is that roughly 81 gigabytes of McDonald's complete audiotape archives have been compressed to fit on one (1) DVD, being less than 4.5 gigabytes!

McCarron was the only one receiving money from our limited FUFOR grant after Youseff's departure from the team, since Druffel and Uhlenkott gave their time during those years from 2002 to 2006, and paid over \$100 in postage accrued during those years.

The total FUFOR grant had amounted to \$3,495, and by the time McCarron completed the project, his total remuneration was less than \$3,000—also standard procedure for technical professionals who are currently active in the UFO research field.⁵

However, the happiness McCarron feels at having been given the opportunity to have cataloged this amazing five years' work (in audio form) by Dr. McDonald have more than made up for any inconvenience. The same honor is felt by Uhlenkott and Druffel.

The main thing here to consider, however, is really not how long it took the project to be completed, but, instead, the absolutely beautiful and professional way in which it was accomplished.

By using state-of-the-art technology, most of the hum/static and other interference on McDonald's priceless audio tapes was entirely eliminated.

When Druffel and Uhlenkott first heard the results in McCarron's studio, it was as if McDonald, himself, was speaking in the room!

Now that same excitement can be experienced by anyone who accesses the tapes in the Special Collections Section in Tucson. It is hoped that eventu-



The completed archives of McDonald's tape recordings are packaged in attractive folders.

ally the Board of Regents might decide that McDonald's priceless tape collection will someday be made available from the University of Arizona Library over the Internet to the UFO field and to the interested public at large.

REFERENCES

¹See biography described in Reference 4 (below) for differing hypotheses re. the circumstances of McDonald's death.

²Private letter to Betsy McDonald, written 22 March 1971.

³It is hoped that someday soon the transcribed versions of McDonald's four handwritten journals can be made available to interested readers in UFO research.

⁴*Firestorm! Dr. James E. McDonald's Fight for UFO Science*, by Ann Druffel, Columbus, NC, Granite Publications, Wild Flower Press was finally published in July 2003, 609 pages

⁵It is estimated that the entire job of converting McDonald's 113 tape reels into the (finalized) 110 CDs would have cost at least \$30,000 if it were done on a regular commercial/time basis, without any editing or sound cleanup at all. The project, as completed, must be considered essentially priceless.

Are comets life's building blocks?

The University of Maryland-led NASA mission that smashed into the mostly coal black surface of Tempel-1 comet this past July 4, found water ice on the surface.

This is the first time ice has been detected on the solid body of a comet, according to the journal *Science*.

Deep Impact Principal Investigator Michael Ahearn states: "We can conclude that most of the water vapor that escapes from comets is contained in ice particles found below the surface."

Comets are described as "frozen balls of dirty ice," but the findings from Tempel-1 indicate that it is made of broken up rocks that contain clays and carbonates—the minerals of limestones and seashells that are formed only in liquid water.

"How do clays and carbonates form in frozen comets where there isn't liquid water?" asked Dr. C.M. Lisse, a Mission scientist; "Nobody expected this," he said.

The Spitzer space telescope also detected in Tempel-1 crystalline silicates—a form of the mineral that requires at least 1300 degrees Fahrenheit temperatures to form.

"How do you put that stuff into a comet that forms out by Pluto?" asked the puzzled Dr. Lisse. How, indeed, do you get mineral-melting temperatures in a region of absolute cold?

Dr. Lisse, of John Hopkins University, and other scientists expanded the list of Earthlike components discovered in the comet to include chemicals associated with living organisms.

They listed clays, silicates, carbonates, iron sulfides, alumina, and compounds called PAHs, which are among many organic chemicals that show up in living organisms on Earth.

Another reported surprise: The team has detected an unexpectedly high concentration of methyl cyanide.

Biologists say methyl cyanide is a key player in reactions that form DNA. (*Christian Science Monitor*).

Independent confirmation adds credibility for witnesses, investigators in UFO cases

By Preston Dennett

The only thing more exciting for a UFO investigator than discovering a hot new case is getting independent confirmation of that same case. That kind of validation and corroboration can add considerable credibility to the case.

While doing research for my latest book, *UFOs Over California* (Schiffer Publishing, 2005), I was able to uncover additional information to help corroborate several famous and/or little-known California UFO events.

Playa Del Rey

One outstanding example of this concerns the Playa Del Rey UFO landing case of Nov. 6, 1957. This incredible case was covered in several newspapers and featured in Charles Bowen's classic book, *The Humanoids*. What follows is a brief summary of the incident.

At 5:40 on that morning, General Telephone Company employee Richard Keyhoe was driving along the Pacific Coast Highway when his engine mysteriously stalled.

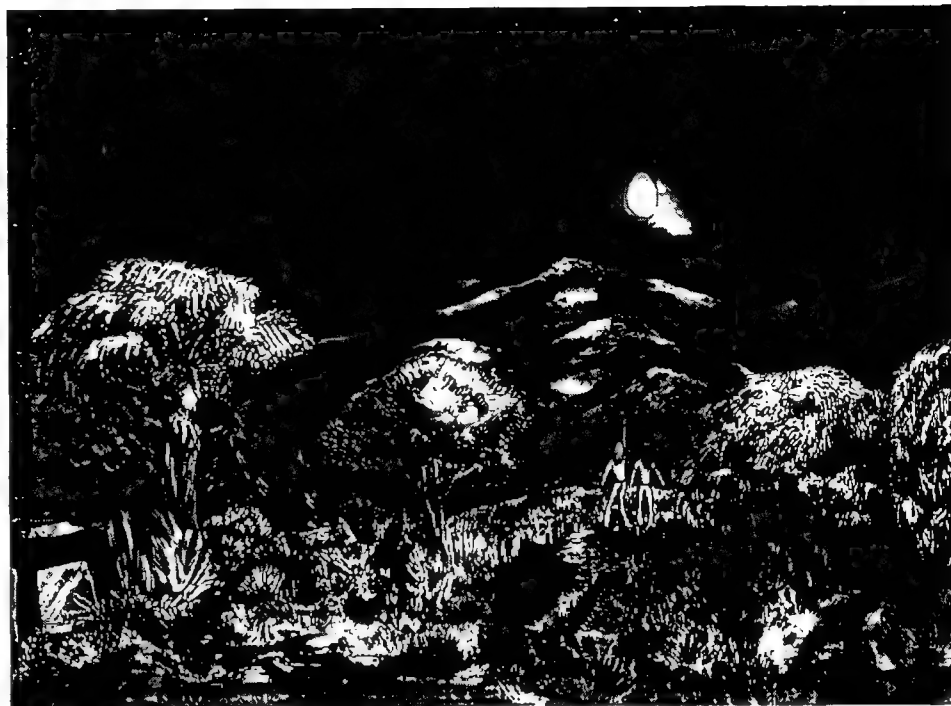
As he got out of his car, he noticed that the engines of two other cars had also stalled, and their passengers were also exiting their vehicles.

At that point, Keyhoe and the two other drivers, Ronald Burke of Redondo Beach and Joe Thomas of Torrance, observed a large "egg-shaped" object surrounded in a "blue haze" landed on the beach only a few yards away.

The object was "tan or cream in color with two metal rings around it, upon which the object apparently rested."

As they watched, two human-looking figures with "yellowish-green skin" and wearing "black leather pants, white belts and light colored jerseys" exited the object and began asking questions of the stunned witnesses.

Keyhoe and the others were unable to understand the occupants, who ap-



peared to be speaking a foreign language. After a few moments, the figures went back into the craft, which then took off and disappeared.

Once the object was gone, the car engines started running again. Joe Thomas was so unnerved by the incident that he reported it to the local police, which was eventually leaked to the media, forever establishing the incident as a "classic case."

Here is where the new information comes in. Unknown to any of the three witnesses, events were still in progress.

About ten hours later, at 3:50 PM, and less than 50 miles to the south, a commanding officer and 12 airmen from an Air Force weather detachment at Long Beach sighted six saucer-shaped objects zoom across the sky, just under a 7,000-foot cloud cover.

If that's not enough, about two hours later, between 6:05 and 7:25 PM, additional officers at the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station reported seeing "numerous" unidentified objects zoom overhead.

Finally, at the same time as the above

sightings, local police stations in Long Beach received more than 100 calls from concerned Long Beach citizens reporting UFOs.

Clearly, the Playa Del Rey landing was not an isolated event!

Point Mugu sighting

Another good example is Blue Book Case #2361.

When UFO activity was reported by base personnel over Point Mugu Naval Base on the evening of Jan. 28, 1953, Blue Book officers were brought in to investigate. After interviewing the witnesses, they labeled the case "unidentified."

Apparently unknown to the Blue Book officers, however, was that the Point Mugu sighting was the tail end of a much larger case.

Immediately prior to the incident and about 50 miles further south, intense UFO activity was reported over the cities of Newport Beach and Long Beach.

At 9 PM that evening, personnel at the El Toro Marine Base control tower observed an unknown object in the nearby vicinity. At the same time,

observers in the Long Beach Airport control tower also observed the object.

Marine jet pilot Maj. Harvey Patton was scrambled after the mysterious visitor. He was able to pursue the UFO, which was described as "a large fiery red disc-shaped object."

After four minutes of pursuit, Maj. Patton was unable to close the distance between him and the object, and there the case seemed to end. Instead, as we have seen, the object apparently continued on towards Point Mugu.

The Van Nuys case

A third example involves a little-known UFO landing case in Van Nuys, CA. In mid-June, 1955, Ted Kettridge, a young electrician, told reporters that he was awakened in the middle of the night by the barking of his dogs.

Exiting his home, he was amazed to see a gigantic gold-colored sphere in his front yard. Standing next to the object were three seven-foot-tall human-looking figures.

They appeared friendly, had long flowing hair, and spoke flawless English, "as if they had memorized thousands of conversations and were repeating the words on tape."

Says Kettridge, "[The] men approached me without hesitation and told me not to be frightened." The visitors then imparted a few brief philosophical messages and left.

Says Kettridge, "I was really scared. In fact, the whole thing seemed like a dream, only I know it wasn't. Several other people in the valley had seen the same thing, even talked with the men. I just hope I never see it again."

The above incident was uncovered by investigator Timothy Green Beckley. Charles Bowen uncovered the following related case.

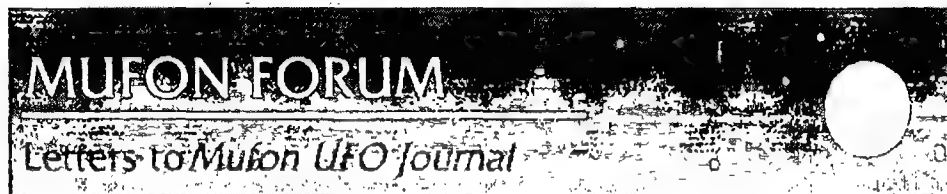
One month later, on July 20, 1955, a "huge ball-shaped object" landed in the immediately adjacent town of Panorama City.

Witnesses from three neighboring homes observed "three beings approximately 6 feet 8 inches in height, with long blond hair and tight green suits." Two of the witnesses reported that the beings made "gestures of friendship."

While many UFO encounters may

seem like isolated events, in fact they are usually part of a larger chain of occurrences. Although UFO witnesses may think they are alone with their experience, often they are not.

I uncovered many other such examples of independent confirmation of California UFO events. One can only wonder how many other people are witnesses to the same extraordinary UFO event, but don't know who to tell.



A yeti relic

I would like to comment on an article by Stan Gordon a few issues back. In his article he mentioned that the witness had a close look at the creature.

The witness stated, "The head of the creature seemed to be cone-shaped." This I think is a key observation. Here's why I say that.

In 1988 I was part of an expedition to the Himalaya. We had a letter from His Holiness The Dali Lahma. This letter allowed us access to areas that would otherwise never have been open to us.

We were in Nepal in the Everest region, as was a British expedition. The British expedition was there looking for the elusive yeti.

We were there to document the Tibetan lifestyle, and while we were in one of the monasteries there were a few items that were brought out for us to see.

One of these items was what the monks told us was a yeti scull cap. The yeti is a sacred being in the Himalaya, and it was kept inside the monastery away from the trekkers and tourists.

It was covered with hair, and was indeed cone shaped, or to be more precise, it curved up from the widest part to the top, looking like it had two sides.

However, if you looked at it from a different angle it would certainly look cone shaped. I will see if there are any photos that we took of this, as many of

Most UFO researchers agree that the vast majority of witnesses do not report their encounters. Clearly, in many cases, we are still seeing only the tip of the iceberg of what is really going on.

(Excerpted by author from *UFOs Over California: A True History of Extraterrestrial Encounters in the Golden State*. Schiffer Publishing, 2005.)

the photos we took inside the dark monasteries did not turn out well.

There would be no reason for these monks to pull a hoax on us, as having a letter from his holiness in that area was like having a letter from God. I believe the British team came up empty on their quest.

—Roger Sugden

Assistant State Director, Indiana



Sept. 16-17—Mothman Festival, Point Pleasant, WV, 740-286-4772, www.mothmanlives.com.

Oct. 28—Mysteries of Space & Sky III, near Annapolis, MD, featuring Don Berliner, Rob/Sue Swiatek, Anna Jamerson, Dr. Charles Emmons, and conference organizer Dr. S. Peter Resta (spr100@aol.com) 410-360-1168 X 8.

Nov. 3-4—National UFO Conference, Hollywood, CA, 858-523-1068, www.nufoc.org.

Nov. 10-12—UFO Crash Retrieval Conference, Las Vegas, NV; 720-887-8171, www.ufoconference.com.

Nov. 17-20—Crop Circles & Keys to Higher Consciousness, Tempe, AZ, featuring J.J. Hurtak, Russell Targ, William Henry, Jim Marrs, Linda Moulton Howe, Francine Blake, Nancy Talbot, Flordemayo, Philip Gardiner, Bert Janssen, Heather Clewett, & Chet & Kallista Snow. www.chetsnow.com, 928-204-1955.

John Schuessler retiring as Director; James Carrion chosen as next leader

By Dwight Connelly

Journal editor

John Schuessler, who has served as International Director of MUFON for the past six years, is retiring, and James Carrion, director of MUFON's Pandora Project, will be the new director.

While Schuessler's retirement was news to the public and most MUFON members, Board members have been aware for some time of his desire to reduce his role with MUFON.

"I have had some health problems," he explains, "and just don't have the energy to keep going seven days a week. Kathy and I feel we have earned some time for ourselves."

He noted, however, that he will remain as active with MUFON as his health permits in whatever capacity that best suits the needs of the organization.

Schuessler says that Carrion, who has served as a member of the Board, will do a great job as director.

"James is smart, a hard worker, reliable, a team player, and a success in the business world," says Schuessler. "He will not only continue the projects now underway, but will utilize his considerable talents to expand MUFON's role in ufology."

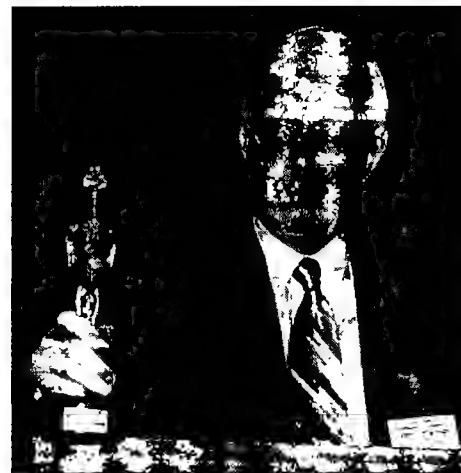
The transition from Schuessler to Carrion will take place over the next four or five months, with Carrion expected to assume full responsibility in November or December in a gradual shifting of roles.

As Carrion becomes familiar with the duties of Director, Kristen Kennington will be learning the office procedures currently being carried out by Schuessler's wife, Kathy.

Ms. Kennington has been assisting Carrion with the Pandora Project, and assisted Kathy at the recent symposium. "Kristen is detail oriented, and will make a great office manager," says Carrion.



Retiring MUFON International Director John Schuessler, right, congratulates International Director-elect James Carrion on his selection by the MUFON Board.



John Schuessler, who has served ufology for more than 40 years as researcher, author, and leader, was presented MUFON's first annual Award for Excellence in Ufology.

My lifelong interest in UFOs

By James Carrion

When I was a young boy of 11, I was fascinated by stories of aliens, UFOs, and related phenomena, and began my own news clipping collection.

My mother subscribed to all the major tabloid publications, and they provided many of the news articles in my collection.

My family moved to Puerto Rico around this time, and it was there that I had my first exposure to others interested in the subject.

There was a local UFO group that was actively involved in going to El Yunque, Puerto Rico's national park and rain forest, where they attempted to communicate and meet with alien species.

Unfortunately, my father did not allow me to accompany the group, as he believed that UFOs were evil and demonic in nature. According to other group members, their communication attempts were successful.

I was also actively involved with researching Chupacabra activity and all of the Laguna Cartagena UFO sightings. One of my father's dogs was even the possible victim of a Chupacabra attack. Even to this day, Puerto Rico is a hotbed for UFO activity.

I left Puerto Rico to join the U.S. Army, where I worked as a Russian linguist and signals intelligence analyst, and I was stationed for two years in Augsburg, Germany.

In 1987 I left the military and moved to Tallahassee, FL, to attend college. While living there, I became fascinated with the story of the Gulf Breeze six, a group of young soldiers who went AWOL from their base in Augsburg, Germany, to search for UFOs in Gulf Breeze.

All six of these soldiers were also military intelligence analysts (from a sister unit), and I was intrigued as to what would cause a group of young, intelligent, and psychologically competent

individuals (having achieved top secret clearances with special background investigations) to pursue their quest while knowing they could face possible prison time and charges of treason.

One of the Gulf Breeze six even attended the MUFON symposium that was being held in Pensacola at the time. That was the first time that I heard of MUFON.

In 1996 I moved to Greeley, CO, with my wife Lisa so she could attend graduate school at the University of Colorado.

I quickly found myself attending the MUFON Denver meetings, and joined MUFON soon after. I traveled with MUFON Colorado members to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident.

That same year I passed my MUFON investigator exam and was assigned as state section director for Northeastern Colorado. When I moved to Bellvue, CO, I vacated that position and took over as the Northwestern Colorado section director.

In 2003 I proposed to the board the Pandora Project, and after board approval began work on it.

Since the files were in Denver, it was difficult to remotely manage what is essentially a very hands-on volunteer-based project. In 2005 I moved the MUFON files to my home in Bellvue so I could have more of an active role.

Since then, I—along with a paid part-time worker—have processed all of the U.S. files.

This is a very time intensive task of separating out discreet cases, assigning each case a unique Pandora number which is entered into a computer database, and then placing each case in a new labeled folder.

The files are then scanned by a third party imaging company. Thus far, more than 9,000 U.S. cases have already been scanned and archived on DVD. The remaining international and other miscellaneous files will be archived soon.

I believe, as Dr. Hynek did, that if we collect enough sighting data and put it in the proper electronic format, we will start to see patterns emerge that we did not previously notice.

My goal is to put together the largest UFO database in the world that can be easily accessed by our own research teams for data-mining purposes.

After reviewing most of the files MUFON has amassed over the years, I am still in awe at the dedication and professionalism shown by the many MUFON investigators who took their investigation work so seriously. My goal is to make their efforts count.

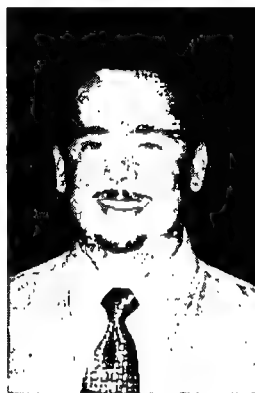
In 2003 I was invited to participate in the MUFON reorganization meetings that resulted in the revised MUFON mission statement and goals. I was asked to join the board soon after, and have proudly served on it since.

I consider myself a skeptical believer in UFOs—skeptical from the point of view that I don't take a UFO sighting at face value, but believe that each case should be rigorously investigated with an open but scientifically discerning mind.

At the same time, I believe that the UFO phenomenon is real, and although I have never had a UFO sighting myself, I can't discount the thousands upon thousands of sightings experienced by others.

I also sincerely hope one day within my lifetime that UFOLOGY will be fully embraced by most mainstream scientists instead of being treated as a pseudo science and an object of ridicule—and that MUFON will be the major catalyst in accomplishing this.

In order to reach this and other MUFON goals, I plan to stress solid research, expanded educational activities, more involvement of young people and women, international cooperation with other reputable groups, and high ethical standards.



James Carrion

James Carrion resume

1996 - Present: Mountain View Systems, LLC, Bellvue, CO, Chief Executive Officer and founder. Manage a private computer training company that specializes in accelerated computer technical training and computer based tutorials (CBTs).

Lead instructor and curriculum designer. Winner of the 2005 and 2006 Information Technology Professional magazine award for best accelerated technical training.

1995-1996: Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. Computer Services manager. Responsible for computer support for all university administrative departments.

Managed a staff of 20 computer technicians/engineers, as well as a help desk that provided excellent customer service and technical support to computer end users. Responsible for evaluating, purchasing, and implementing multi-million dollar computer network hardware and software systems.

1994-1995: Datafax, Inc., Tallahassee, FL. Computer technical trainer. Taught Microsoft and Novell technical training classes to computer professionals. Provided computer consulting services.

1987-1994: Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. Computer support engineer.

1983-1989: United States Army (active and reserve). Signals intelligence analyst/Russian-Spanish linguist. Responsible for interception and analysis of foreign voice communications for the National Security Agency (NSA), targeting the former Soviet bloc countries prior to the end of the cold war.

Flight crew member on voice intercept missions (flights) between Key West, FL, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Education

1989-1991: Florida State University, M.A. International Affairs.

1987-1989: Florida State University, B.A. Russian Language with a minor in Spanish

1983-1984: Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA, 47-week intensive Russian language course.



FILER'S FILES

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Note: These reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.

Drowning our youth

This month I have dedicated these Files to the accidental drowning of my grandson, Georgie.

Georgie's gift of life

Every so often you see a bright shining star in the skies. Georgie's light of love and happiness was here for five years.

George A. Filer V was my son's son, who was the happiest and sweetest kid you would ever want to meet.

I announced his birth at the Washington National Press Club Disclosure Briefing to 150 reporters in May of 2001. Because of Georgie, I agreed to testify about UFOs. I'm devastated to report he drowned in his mother's parents' pool on July 6, 2006.

He always ran up to hug me and give a big happy kiss to my wife and me. He was the loving star of our family, and he had the nickname of Prince George.

He would sit on my lap and want me to read him stories. He particularly liked Spiderman, race cars, and Thomas Trains. I often wondered how he could be so happy. He would give me a hug and a kiss and say, "Love You," or tell you his favorite saying, "Be happy!"

His personality was exuberant and loving, and he often wore his Spiderman costume, who has breath-taking battles with fearsome criminals.

Virtually everyone liked or loved him. He was born with a smile and showed love for all those around him. He liked to snuggle in your arms.

His life was a very short five years,

but he was a charming child and a blessing to each person who met him. Many were touched by Georgie's love and happiness.

He would give a rock to his school bus driver each day, flowers to his mother, and little seashells to his friends. His Golden Retriever was his constant companion, and even butterflies would land on his fingers.



George Filer

It was one of the greatest shocks of my life to lose such a precious gift as George. I have cried more in the last few days than I have in my whole life, and have promised to give a warning to others.

When George died, he gave his eyes to another child, who can now see.

I am asking for your help so Georgie will not be forgotten—that he has not died in vain.

He died in a swimming pool accident, one of about 1,450 young children, most under five years old, who die each year from drowning, typically in backyard pools.

To put this in perspective, we lost about 1,000 soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan last year. We lose a third more of our little children in our pools, yet I see only explosions or terrorist bombs on our newscasts.

No warnings about the death traps in our pools and spas. Yours or your neighbor's pools can cause death just as deadly as roadside bombs.

Tell your friends about Georgie, and warn them to watch their children every minute when near water. It is very important that someone is in charge to

watch over the children. A swimming pool is 14 times more likely than a motor vehicle to be involved in the death of a child age 4 and under.

I asked God, why take someone so young and loving? I like to think God has a greater need for him in Heaven. Alex, who is Georgie's sister, told me he is watching over us right now.

Georgie and I ask that you help save some other child, so you may be spared the grief of losing a child you love. When you go to Heaven, expect to see Georgie greeting you and saying, "We love you, BE HAPPY, let me show you my room."

I'm looking for your help in spreading information about Georgie's gifts and the danger in our pools. Please contact me at Majorstar@aol.com

Lights over Phoenix

Don Ecker interviewed photojournalist Jeff Woolwine, who filmed a rather amazing piece of footage over Phoenix on July 4, 2006. Jeff believes these lights to be "individual entities."

A spokesman for Dark Matters Radio says, "We're inclined to believe that this is a singular large aircraft, currently of unknown origin, that is banking to the right and pivoting on its nose."

According to Jeff, the Air Force has already made a statement that these lights were nothing more than flares.

This singular event is spectacular for two reasons: this is the second sighting over the Phoenix area in recent history that has been captured by video, and no one is paying attention—again.

Without a doubt this is an important event and deserves more attention and research than it is currently getting. So tell everyone you know, your email list, your message board favorites, your neighbor, and perfect strangers to visit

the Dark Matters website and get this footage. Thanks to Dark Matters Radio, www.darkmattersradio.com.

Illinois black triangle

CHICAGO—The witness reports, "I was over Illinois, flying to Minneapolis from the Southeast on June 6, 2006. I was looking out the airplane window and spotted a triangle. The object was flat black in color, very large (best estimate 300-400 yards long), and featureless.

"It remained motionless in the top of a cloud. I had feelings of disbelief, awe, and, strangely, very calm. I lost sight of the object when the plane finally flew past it." Thanks to MUFON CMS.

Argentina bovine incisions

LA PAMPA — Cattle Mutilations: a report from Raul Oscar Chaves. "In late June, 2006, on the edge of Route # 7, five bovines were found dead, presenting clear signs of mutilation.

"The carcasses showed signs of missing udders, ears, and tongues, and incisions to the genital region. The animals were predominantly black Aberdeen Angus and Short Horn cattle.

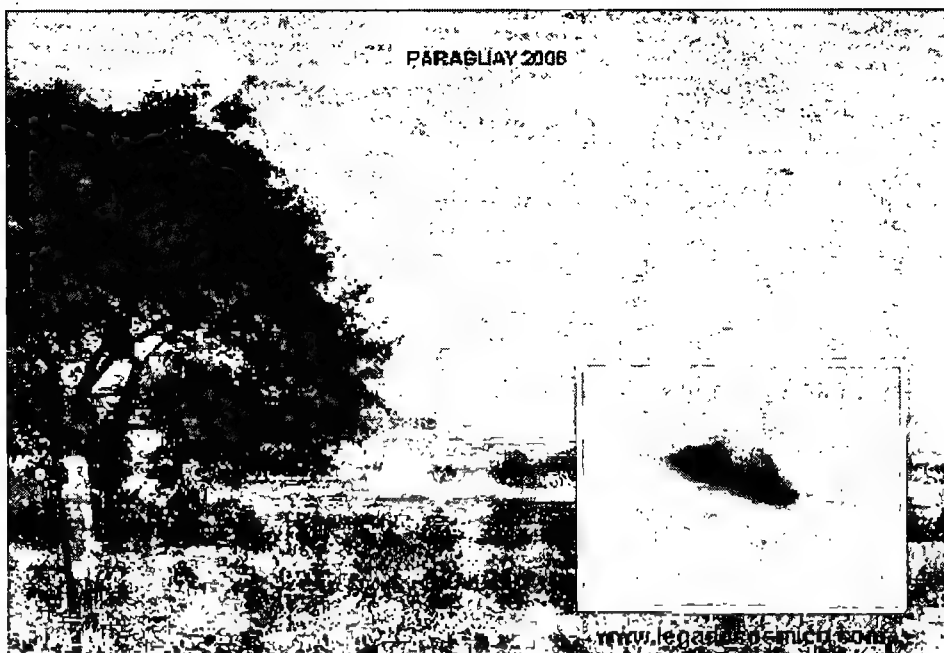
"Many mutilations are not reported because livestock buyers are reluctant to make purchases from estates on which mutilation episodes have occurred." Translation (c) 2006. S. Corrales, IHU. Special thanks to Raul Oscar Chaves.

Hovering object in Mexico

PALENQUE—Elliot Lemmon writes, "I live in New Zealand, and my father, who is a professional director of photography, was filming a BBC series in Palenque, Mexico, called 'Spirits of the Jaguar' back in '96 when he, along with two or three others, had the sighting.

"What really blows me away is the apparent interest the UFO had either in the people viewing it or in King Pacal's tomb/pyramid.

"Basically, they were setting up their equipment; camera, etc. for the day's shoot. It was only 4:00 or 4:30 AM,



Paraguay object photographed

AMAMBAY—Here is a photograph taken by Alejandro Romijn of the ENIGMAS production group during their visit to Amambay in May, 2006. The image was sent to me by Ricardo Gonzalez, researcher and director of the Legado Cosmico web site.

and still dark, so unfortunately there was no way of filming the event.

"After realizing there was a small light on the horizon over the jungle in Palenque, my father and others became curious. Eventually the light came silently zigzagging towards them. They were directly at the bottom of the Temple of Inscriptions setting up.

"As the light came closer, it suddenly sped up and zoomed towards their position, where it 'stopped on a dime,' in my father's words. He had no belief whatsoever in UFOs, and had never really looked at the evidence, despite my pleas.

"Now this light had stopped directly above them, and its luminescence went out to reveal a solid oblong kind of shape, perhaps a couple thousand feet up and the size of a large truck. My father described it as pretty much brick-like.

"The craft's light came back on, and it shot off to the horizon again at an impossible speed! One of the things my father still finds hard to fathom is the complete silence of the craft." Thanks to Elliot Lemmon

Note: The carved stone grave vault

cover of King Pacal's temple/tomb shows him apparently sitting in a rocket or UFO taking him into space.

Oklahoma UFO dives in pond?

FLAGLER—"On June 27, 2006," says the witness, "five of our grandchildren were fishing in our pond about 3 PM when they saw a big splash on one side of the pond.

"When it hit the water there was steam that went up from the object, then the object disappeared to reappear in another area. Everything became still, and the pond became like glass as the object sank.

"Then they saw a whirlpool in the pond about 8 to 10 feet across that moved very fast across the pond towards them. One of the children got in a boat that was at the bank, and she could see lights around the sides. The object looked like metal.

"Two other children said they saw the lights, but two of them said it looked yellow under the water. Two were still watching it when they saw the water and grass around the pond next to them start to move violently, so they got scared and ran to the house.

"They were very disturbed by what they saw, and it took three hours before they would tell us what had happened. They range from 7 to 13 years old, and all had the same story.

"The next day we drove around and found truck-like tracks that led towards the pond, but stopped before they got to the water. There was a circle where the grass had been bent down in an arc shape at the edge of the pond as it splashed into the pond.

"They said there was a cloud over them that was swirling. The older children thought it might be a tornado that sounded like a muffled lawn mower. I asked the OSU Extension Agency to check for contamination. They informed me there had been two other similar incidents." Thanks to MUFON.

Two-part object in the UK

ALEXANDRA PALACE, LONDON—"What I observed high in the sky," says the witness, "was an object comprised of at least two parts appearing to languidly move across my plane of vision on June 24, 2006, at 1 PM.

"It seemed to be one vertical cylindrical object with a silver-colored sphere attached to it, but which moved in regular motion and time from the bottom of the cylinder to the top.

"The cylinder stayed at the side of the object, giving the appearance of sliding up and down the cylinder evenly.

"Before it eventually disappeared out of view, two aircraft—one near and one distant—came into view that gave me a reference for whatever it was I was watching, so I estimate it was very high and relatively large."

Dr. Willy Smith dies after short illness

Dr. Willy Smith, who worked closely with Dr. J. Allen Hynek on the UNICAT UFO data base, died July 11 after a short illness.

"He was a good ufologist, and honest in all that he did and said," says Virgilio Sánchez-Ocejo of the Miami UFO Center, who reported the death. "He was also a good friend of mine."

Presentations by 2006 Symposium speakers available in many forms

Those who missed seeing and hearing this year's symposium speakers in person may still learn what they had to say. Video, DVD, and audio tapes are available, as is the *37th Annual International Symposium Proceedings*.

Speakers and their topics include:

Jesse Marcel, Jr., the Friday dinner speaker, "Evidence from Roswell";

Kenneth Storch, "911 UFO: UFOs and Police Officers";

Steve Reichmuth, "The MUFON UFO Weather Maps—a Year of Evidence in Review";

Ronald Regehr, "The Iranian UFO Encounter";

Ruben Uriarte, "Border Crossings of the Third Kind," which deals with UFO activity in Mexico;

Linda Moulton Howe, "UFO Crash Retrievals—U.S. Government Policy of Denial in the Interests of National Security";

Marshall Vian Summers, "The Alien Agenda and the Ethics of Contact";

Ted Phillips, "The Physical Evidence for Unidentified Flying Objects";

Carl Feindt, "Physical Influences of a UFO on Water";

David Marler, "Triangular UFOs: A Detailed Analysis of the Historical Record";

Ryan Wood, "Big Proof: Examination of UFO Crash Retrieval Cases";

Brian Boldman, "Angel Hair: Evi-

dence of UFO Technology."

The *Proceedings* also includes an article by Symposium emcee and Saturday luncheon speaker John Greenwald, Jr. on "UFOs and the Small Screen: A Production Tale." It does not include Jesse Marcel, Jr.'s remarks.

The cost for this year's *Proceedings* is \$33 in the U.S. and Canada, and \$42 elsewhere, including postage.

Audio tapes of each session are \$6, or \$60 for all 12 speakers; audio CDs are \$8 to \$10, or \$90 for all 12; VHS video tapes are \$20 each, or \$200 for all 12; DVDs are \$25 each, or \$240 for all 12.

Shipping and handling is extra, based on format and destination, unless the order exceeds \$200. Colorado residents must pay 7% sales tax.

Contact: UFO Congress, 6160 Firestone Blvd., Suite #104-373, Firestone, CO 80504-6427; phone 303-651-7136; ufocongress@msn.com; www.ufocongress.com.

Twichell's UFO television program expands to radio

David Twichell's "We Are Not Alone," a half-hour TV show exploring the UFO phenomenon, has also become a one-hour radio show on WHFR - 89.3 FM. It will air at 10 AM EST on alternate Sundays.

The TV show will continue, but world renowned scientists and ufologists now also share their latest evidence in support of the UFO reality on radio and the Worldwide Web.

If you are unable to pick up WHFR's signal in your area, go to <http://whfr.fm/>

The show premiered on Sunday, July 2, and was repeated on July 16, with a new show each month. The TV version is now in its sixth year.

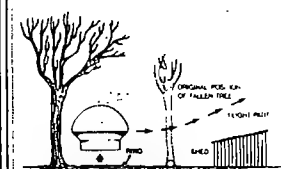
Twichell is a researcher and author, and serves as editor of the *Michigan MUFON Newsletter*. The website is <http://www.ufoimplications.com>

Books by Dr. Leir

Dr. Roger Leir's newest book, *UFO Crash in Brazil*, \$14.95, with an interview of an orthopedic surgeon who operated on an Alien Being, is available, as is *Casebook—Alien Implants*, \$7.00, Dr. Leir's second book on Alien Implants.

Videos also available.

Add \$2.50 shipping/handling fee. Mail check or money order to: A&S Research, 3801 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320



Physical Traces

By Ted Phillips

Marley Woods—bovine incisions

In previous columns I discussed some of the strange sightings related to an area of Missouri which I call Marley Woods.

As I investigated, more and more reports came in over a period of time as area residents came to know and trust me. The strangeness did not stop.

In June, 1999, a second area of activity became known as the cabin owner was visiting with his neighbor, Witness 53.

This site is located 4,500 feet south of the cabin, and is one of three farms owned by Witness 53.

He was reluctant to discuss such things, but finally became curious enough to talk. In June, 1999, he had been finding numerous cattle dead under odd circumstances.

The animals were found in the area of an old farm house located on the next high hill south of the cabin. He would find a calf just born with the mother, and the next morning the calf would be picked clean of its flesh, the mother still close to it.

This was strange enough, but over a period of several days this continued, and each time he would find a large ring a short distance away from the calf. The soil in these rings appeared baked, but the center was normal. The rings were about 20 feet in diameter.

Near the end of June he was riding his horse when the animal reacted to something, reared up, and almost tossed him off. He calmed the horse and found two more 20-foot rings identical to the 8 other rings located some 800

feet to the west. The horse would not go into either of the rings.

He found in these fields two gates of the same construction as the May 8, 1999, event located a mile south.

The gates were forced to the ground, and the pivot pins were turned to the horizontal. The gates were still chained together and were not marked or dented by impact. The gates cannot be reached by vehicle without unlocking two sets of gates to access the fields.

There have been numerous sightings by Witness 53 and his father over the years in this area. A brilliant globe was seen on the ground, and video was taken of it by Witnesses 11 & 12 from their home 2,000 feet away.

June 7, 1999: Witnesses 8 & 9 saw orange lights at 10 PM from their farm south of the cabin.

June 16, 1999: at the cabin, the caretaker and two other people saw six of the orange lights. One of the lights was due east over the old barn, followed by three more in a triangular pattern. The other two were single lights in the north-east.

June 24, 1999: at the cabin, three witnesses took videos of large white light at 9:21 PM. As the object moved across the sky they could see small lighted objects racing toward the larger one. The display was seen for ten minutes.

At 10:10 PM another large white light moved south, and again smaller white lights were videoed as they raced toward, and then from, the larger light.

July, 1999: Witnesses 73 & 74, both in their mid-60's, live 2,000 feet west of the second farm owned by Witness 53. One evening in early July the wife saw a "craft" with lights passing over their house.

She called to her husband, and they both watched as the object slowly descended into the woods on Witness 53's

farm, as if landing. They drove toward the area to see if they could find the object, but all was dark. The object had descended into the area of the old buildings on Witness 53's property.

The next day they arrived at the farm, and, as they were watching the place while Witness 53 was gone, they had keys to the gates. It was noon, a clear, calm day.

There is an old mobile home 40 feet SE of the house, which is also quite old and in bad shape. The entire area was grown up with high weeds. Witness 73 stopped the car 20 feet from the house and walked to the mobile home to check it.

His wife, Witness 74, watched from the car; she is a very large person, and it is difficult for her to enter or exit the car. Her view was of the mobile home to the right, and the house to the left.

She watched as her husband walked from the mobile home toward the old house. Suddenly he fell to the ground.

His wife, fearing he had a heart attack, left the car and headed for the path to the house. She called to him and asked if he was okay. It took him several seconds to reply in a very weak voice.

A strange force

She asked him if he could get up, and he said he wasn't sure. When she got closer to him she could see that he was face down. As she reached him she felt a "force" or pressure against her upper back and shoulders and was also pushed to the ground, falling next to her husband.

They managed to help each other off the ground. He said he was walking between the house and the mobile home when he was suddenly "pushed" violently straight ahead. Both reported they felt two distinct "blows" before falling.

He suffered a bloody right leg from the hip to the foot, developed a blood



Ted Phillips

clot above his right knee, and spent several days in the hospital.

This couple is highly regarded in the community. They have not reported or discussed the event with anyone except a close family friend, and she told R and me about it. They refused to talk with us, even though they have known R for many years.

The husband was an avid hunter his entire life, and he not only stopped hunting, but rarely leaves his house.

July 7, 1999: at the cabin, at 8:16 PM one larger amber light seen by three witnesses.

July 8, 1999: at the cabin, at 9:21 PM two witnesses saw one amber light in the southeast.

July 13, 1999: at the cabin, two witnesses saw a large white light from the south at 9:30 PM. R took video for three minutes as it moved toward the cabin. At one point it stopped, hovered for 15 to 20 seconds, and moved away at high speed due east.

Enormous object

July 14, 1999: at the cabin, at 9:37 PM two witnesses saw "an enormous object moving very slowly across the sky from east to west. The object was longer than it was wide, and it was covered over the entire surface with various dim (not blinking) lights.

"It made a very low humming sound as it traveled, and when it was west of us, it appeared to split in half, with the right half continuing west and the left half traveled southwest."

Video was taken, but only a few of the lights could be seen; the dark shape is not visible. The object was seen for more than five minutes.

July 17, 1999: at the cabin, Witness 21, caretaker of the property, reported seeing two of the large orange lights appear in the east in the direction of the old barn.

Shortly after their appearance, a bright white light moved across the sky from north to south, then stopped for two minutes east of the old barn.

July 18, 1999: at the cabin the owner saw a large white light straight overhead. He braced his video camera on the windmill framework, and as he taped the object, it instantly reversed

direction and flew away at high speed.

July 20, 1999: at the cabin. Owner R reported, "Today at about 2:15 PM while I was driving a cow through the 12-foot wide fence alley to my corral, I happened upon a large circular area of flattened and swirled grass between the alley fences. I called Ted on my cell phone, and he arrived at my farm at 7:30 PM."

The ring is located 245 feet north-east of the cabin, halfway down a sloping field toward the area where the gates were impacted earlier. The story pieced together is as follows:

On the evening of July 19, 1999, at 11 PM, the caretaker heard the farm dogs "going crazy" to the northeast of the cabin. He saw a large white light in the low east, and went back to bed.

The next day, the caretaker called the cabin owner to tell him of a cow trying to birth a calf, and she was having problems. The owner called the local vet, and joined him at the farm.

The calf had to be removed from the cow, and was dead. The head was deformed, as was one front leg. The calf was "mummified"—the word used by the vet.

The vet stated that he not seen this condition before, and it was "very odd." The property owner and caretaker herded the cow through a fenced alley to put her in a barn. The alley has gates at each end allowing no access to cattle or vehicles.

A swirled circle

They walked up the alley and found the swirled circle in the high grass. The fescue around the circle measured an average of 40 inches in height up to the edge of the disturbed area.

The fescue was tightly swirled in a clockwise pattern, flat to the ground. Plants were not broken, scorched, or dehydrated. There was no sign of heavy weight or crushing effects. There were no visible imprint marks.

The center was two inches higher than the outer ring—it was swirled, but appeared to be somewhat pulled up also. We attempted to duplicate the effects with boards, feet, and a large tire. When rolled down the fescue would spring back up.

The ring of swirled foliage was compressed by a very high pressure of some sort, applied from above. The central area was exposed to less force.

The swirled area is circular, but slightly elongated east to west. It measured 9.3 feet north-south, 8.95 feet east-west. The alley fences are 12 feet apart, and the ring edges were: 6 inches from the west fence, and 30 inches from the east fence.

Samples were taken from the site. There were no compass deviations across the area, and a metal detector indicated negative.

CBP 1400 moisture tests on site and control showed no difference.

No radiation was detected, no glowing effects noted at night, normal insect population in area, and there were no marks or discoloration in the area.

No additional swirled areas were found, and there had been no high wind for the past three weeks.

Cattle react

On Aug. 8, 1999, the owner tried to drive 166 cattle through the alley. As the herd approached the swirled ring they suddenly bolted and tried to get through the barbed wire fences on each side, rather than cross the circle.

The owner and three helpers forced the cattle back and away from the area. Then they attempted to drive them through the ring area in groups of ten, single file.

The cattle went by the ring, single file, stepping only in the 30-inch area between the east fence and the edge of the ring. Not one touched even the edge of the swirled circle.

This ring is located 330 feet southwest of the gates that were pushed down earlier.

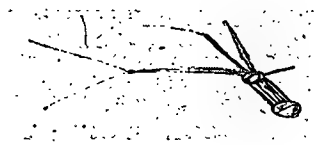
"Normal" sightings continued in July, with observations on the 22, 24, 29, and 30, all witnessed by two to 8 people.

August, 1999: Only one observation during the month—five witnesses saw a large white light.

September, 1999: observations on 4th, 13th, 16th, 21st, 22nd.

October, 1999: 30 "normal" sightings, two significant events.

(Continued next month)



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

Plasmas and UFOs

As Yogi Berra once said, "It's déjà vu all over again."

There was a lot of discussion the first two weeks of May about the soon to be widely released United Kingdom Ministry of Defense UFO Volume: "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) in the UK Air Defense Region."

The work in the report had actually been done between 1996 and 2000, and some had been classified SECRET because of some still censored information about radar.

A freedom of information request to the UK Ministry of Defense by four UK researchers seeking a copy had finally hit paydirt. For a week before the formal release on the internet, news articles appeared.

All stressed that the classified study consisting of more than 450 pages would be posted on the internet on May 15. Supposedly the study had found that UAPs (They didn't like the term UFOs) did not present a threat to the security of Great Britain. Most, it was said, could be explained as various blobs of plasma.

Frankly, I was incredulous. One blurb noted that there was supposedly a claim being made that this was only the second government-sponsored report in English about UFOs.

The University of Colorado "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects," done under the direction of physicist Edward U. Condon and usually referred to as the Condon report, was the other one.

The latter volume was finished at the end of 1968. Careful review indicates that 30% of the 117 cases studied in detail could not be identified.

Were the authors really unaware of Project Blue Book Special Report 14 with its more than 240 charts, tables, graphs, and maps discussing 3,201 sightings?

It was completed in 1955, and 21.5% of the cases could not be explained, separate from the 9.5% which had "insufficient Information."

Did they really not know about Project Grudge/Blue Book Reports 1-12? Or the Congressional Hearings (246 pages) of July 29, 1968, with testimony from 12 scientists including Carl



Stan Friedman

Sagan, J. Allen Hynek, James Har- der, James E. McDonald, myself, et al?

These were all government-sponsored reports in English.

UFOs as plasmas is hardly a new notion. UFO debunker Philip Klass had published two articles in *Aviation Week and Space Technology* in 1966 suggesting a plasma explanation for most UFO sightings. He elaborated in detail in his first debunking book, *UFOs Identified*, published in 1968.

McDonald's work

Dr. James E. McDonald, who was a professor of physics in the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona, had already been digging into UFOs for a couple of years.

He discussed Klass' strange totally unscientific hypotheses in great detail in 19 pages of his outstanding 40-page paper "UFOs: an International Scientific Problem" presented in Montreal on March 12, 1968, at the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute Astronautics Symposium.

There are 38 references in this paper. Jim used quantitative science techniques to show that none of Klass' many plasma and plasmoid explana-

tions could stand up to careful scrutiny.

Klass had even explained away the Betty and Barney Hill sighting of September, 1961, as a plasma phenomenon! As might be expected, he came up with at least one other explanation later.

Jim dealt carefully with all aspects of Klass' theories, such as pollution being related to the plasma phenomenon, about meteor-produced plasma blobs, etc.

The simple fact of the matter, which was particularly impressive to me, having worked on plasmas related to the nuclear fusion propulsion system we were examining at Aerojet General Nucleonics in the early 1960s, was that Klass was shown to be wrong in every instance. Plasmas as the source of many UFO reports simply don't cut it.

Plasmoids as sources for UFOs was also a topic pursued diligently in an appendix of the Condon Report, "Atmospheric Electricity and Plasma Interpretations of UFOs" by Martin Altschuler.

It covered 32 pages, included 108 references, and did not conclude that many sightings could be explained by the plasma phenomenon.

In my Congressional Hearings paper, I, too, had discussed plasmas and UFOs, noting that indeed some plasmas might have been involved if they were located in the boundary layer around a flying saucer moving in the atmosphere.

Benefits of created plasma

Many papers had been published showing the great benefit that might be obtained if one created such a plasma and interacted with electric and/or magnetic fields produced on board the craft.

Experiments indicated that one might control lift, drag, heating, radar profile, and sonic boom production.

Plasmas were of great military concern because rocket nose cones enter-

ing back into the atmosphere would be going so fast that they would ionize the air, creating a plasma. Obviously it would be important to know how this would influence the drag and heating on the nose cone.

Targeting nose cones accurately requires that one know the drag and also the heating. I had a technical report literature search done in 1969 while at McDonnell Douglas on the topic "Magnetoaerodynamics."

It included 900 items, 90% of which were classified. There has obviously been a great deal of technical research done on plasmas and the atmosphere.

Many will recall that when the Apollo spacecraft returned from the Moon there was a communications blackout because of the plasma region produced adjacent to the spacecraft as it entered the atmosphere.

None of this was covered in the UK report. Instead they talked about meteors producing "buoyant plasma" that would move around and be mistaken for flying saucers!

Ball lightning not a match

Ball lightning was noted, though any comparison of size, color, and duration between the many reports of ball lightning and UFOs, as noted in BBSR 14, shows that the two groups don't match.

Klass had not made the comparison, although he liked BL as an explanation for many reports.

Of special importance is the fact that ball lightning is normally less than 2' in diameter and rarely lasts more than a few seconds.... And is essentially never noted where there haven't been storms.

Meteors do ionize the air, which is, generally speaking, why we see the ionized air rather than the usually small piece of rock or metal that is actually zooming along.

The MOD report also focuses on the work of Michael Persinger at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. He early on claimed that there was a connection between earthquake lights produced by friction in rocks at about the time of quakes and UFO sightings.

His correlation was, to say the least,

very loose. If there was an earthquake (even if only a magnitude 2 or 3) within 300 miles and a few months of a sighting, to him that meant correlation!

There are about a million earthquakes per year, and many thousands of sightings, so correlations are easy if one gives enough leeway in the timing and location. Christopher Rutkowski of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg has published detailed rebuttals of Persinger's theories.

Obviously, many UFOs observed from aircraft many thousands of feet above the Earth are not produced by earthquakes.

Many people are not aware that plasmas are very important in all our lives. The Sun and all stars are not masses of burning gas, but are plasmas: "electrically conducting fluids."

Fluorescent light bulbs have plasmas inside. Much radio wave propagation is produced by reflection from an ionized layer of the atmosphere. Scientists studying nuclear fusion work with plasmas all the time.

They vary greatly in their characteristics. Marconi's early transmission (1901) of radio waves across the ocean, rather than being limited to the line of sight between transmitter and receiving antenna, was made possible by a layer of plasma about 60 miles above the Earth, the ionosphere.

Some of the comments made in the advance publicity based on the summary were truly ludicrous, such as UAP do exist and are "usually described as coloured lights and sometimes shapes," which leaves out most sightings that are investigated and turn out to be unidentifiable!

Or "reports occur because they comprise unfamiliar and unexpected lights, shapes and patterns, in the context in which the observer sees them."

This doesn't really cover most pilot sightings of nearby craft, obviously metallic, and intelligently controlled, nor the few thousand physical trace cases collected by Ted Phillips wherein craft are seen on or near the ground before taking off.

Or "Rare weather, atmospheric conditions or other 'barely understood'

natural events could also be causes." And I could win the big lottery.

Or "No evidence exists to suggest that the phenomena seen are hostile or under any type of control, other than that of natural physical forces." Would somebody cleared only to Secret be aware of any hostility?

Secret versus Top Secret

Of particular significance is the simple fact that the study had only been classified SECRET. Those who have looked at the almost completely (about 95%) redacted 156 National Security Agency UFO documents "released" in 1997 know that they were classified TOP SECRET UMBRA.

The 4 CIA UFO documents found by the NSA, which it took me 5 years to obtain from the CIA under FOIA, all were classified TOP SECRET CODE Word and were very heavily censored.

Wilbert Smith's 1950 TOP SECRET report indicated that UFOs were the most classified subject in the USA. The FBI said the military considered the problem TOP SECRET.

As noted in my MUFON 2005 paper "Government UFO Lies," it is clear that orders had been given to shoot down UFOs if they didn't land when told to do so.

Gen. Bolender stated, "Reports of UFOs which could affect National Security were not part of the Blue Book System." The point is that no such material could be covered in a Plain Vanilla Secret document.

It is unfortunate that the author of the report has remained anonymous. It is thus impossible to know whether he was just ignorant and an unwitting pawn, or intentionally trying to deceive.

Supposedly the title given the document, the "Condign" Report, is just a random selection of letters! My dictionary says Condign means "well deserved, suitable...usually applied to punishment."

Anybody who buys this balderdash or the Condon report as the final word on UFOs or UAP deserves to be punished for being naïve.

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www.stantonfriedman.com

Director's Message

(Continued from page 2)

James, and the hand-over of the office operations from Kathy to **Kristen Kennington** by the end of 2006, with a major milestone occurring at the end of October when the headquarters office operation will shift from the Denver area to Bellvue, CO.

I am not leaving MUFON, and I will continue to be a member of the Business Board of Directors.

I have served two three-year terms as International Director and have accomplished many of the goals I personally had for MUFON.

That made the year 2006 a good time to make the change. Further details of the change may be found in the article by Dwight Connelly elsewhere in this issue.

New Office Contact Information

Effective Nov. 1, 2006, MUFON will be operating from Bellvue, CO.

The address will be: Mutual UFO Network, Inc., Post Office Box 279, Bellvue, CO 80512-0279. Phone: 970-221-1836 (221-1UFO). FAX: 970-221-1209.

Until that time, official correspondence, memberships, merchandise orders, etc. should continue to be sent to MUFON, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369.

2006 MUFON International UFO Symposium

The 2006 MUFON International UFO Symposium was held in Denver, CO, on the weekend of July 14-16. It was a well-attended event and received lots of local and national press coverage.

The theme of the symposium, "Unconventional Flying Objects: The Best Evidence," was reinforced over and over as the slate of outstanding speakers provided their packages of evidence.

Symposium DVDs, videos and audio CDs are available from the International UFO Congress, 6160

Firestone Blvd., Suite #104-373, Firestone, CO 80504-6427. Their telephone number is 303-651-7136 and their FAX number is 303-651-7137. Email: ufocongress@msn.com. Web site: www.ufocongressstore.com.

We owe a big, big thank you to Bob, Teri, Nicole, and the whole UFO Congress team for their outstanding audio-visual support to the symposium. It is a real pleasure to work closely with them.

Position Announcements

It is a pleasure to announce that **Richard W. Beckwith** of Rock Springs, WY, has accepted the position of State Director for Wyoming. We appreciate the assistance we have received from Colorado State Director Leslie Varnicle in the oversight of the MUFON activities in Wyoming prior to the appointment of Richard.

George E. Lund III, State Director for North Carolina, has appointed **Jeff Cochran** of Charlotte, NC, to the position of Senior Investigator for NC. He also appointed **James E. Sutton** of Newport, NC, to the position of State Section Director for all counties east of I-95.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director of Field Investigator Training, has announced that **Russell Barrett** of Oklahoma City, OK; **Richard W. Beckwith** of Rock Springs, WY; **Kyle Boyat** of Esko, MN; **Steven Clark** of Aurora, CO; **Fletcher Gary** of Huffman, TX; **David A. Henninger** of Greenfield, IN; **Noel McClean** of Arnold, CA; **Lia L. McVicker** of Lodi, CA; **Monte McDonald** of Las Vegas, NV; **Michelle Schwartzfisher** of Eagle, MI; **Michael Stack** of Deerfield, IL; **John Stampfli** of Anaheim, CA; **Martha Upton** of Burlington, IA; **Gregory M. Von Schleh** of Seattle, WA; **Vivian Walker** of Carmichael, CA; and **Shirley M. Wheeler** of Lodi, CA, have passed the MUFON Field

Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators.

All Field Investigator Trainees are urged to self-study the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* and take the exam.

The manual is available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25 plus \$3.50 p&h in the U.S. Total price for delivery outside of the U.S. is \$49.50. It may also be purchased on the Internet at www.mufon.com using PayPal.

New Lifetime Members

It is a pleasure to recognize two members who became MUFON lifetime members at the 2006 MUFON International UFO Symposium in Denver. They are **William Davis** of Grandview, MO, and **Roger Stutz** of Los Alamos, NM.

We are extremely grateful for this vote of confidence and outstanding level of support for MUFON.

2007 MUFON International UFO Symposium

We hope you will start planning now to attend the 2007 symposium in Denver, CO, on the weekend of Aug. 10-12, 2007. In addition to an outstanding slate of speakers, you will be able to assist **James Carrion** with his new MUFON initiatives and projects. It will be another excellent event.

September/October Director's Messages

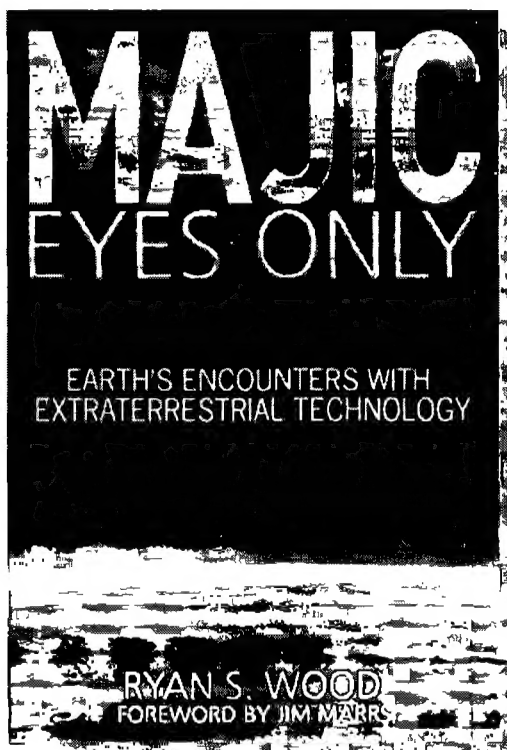
James Carrion and I will issue a joint Director's Message for the September and October issues of the *MUFON UFO Journal* as I phase out of the International Director position.

James will also be providing articles for the journal describing his plans and initiatives.

Estate planning

Planned giving can be beneficial both to MUFON and to your own tax and estate situation. Please contact MUFON headquarters for details.

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2006 Ozark Conference tapes

Video tapes featuring sessions by Forest Crawford, Norman Oliver, Linda Moulton Howe, Grant Cameron, Dr. Paul Von Ward, Wendelle Stevens, Dr. Rudy Schild, Joe Lewels, speakers panel, and Sunday morning mini-session are available for \$20 each, or \$80 for the full set, including 4th Class shipping. Make checks payable to: Ozark UFO Conference Fund. Mail to: Ozark UFO Conference, #2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville, AR 72127. 501-354-2558. rkufu@webtv.net

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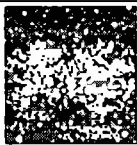
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For advertising, contact John Schuessler at
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The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

September sky

Moon phases

Full Moon Sept. 7 (largest apparent size for 2006)

Last Quarter Sept. 14

New Moon Sept. 22

First Quarter Sept. 30

Bright planets (evening sky)

Mercury (magnitude 1.37 to 1.38 to 1.33): Moving from Leo to Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will be difficult to see this month. For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will emerge into the evening twilight sky in the west during the second half of the month.

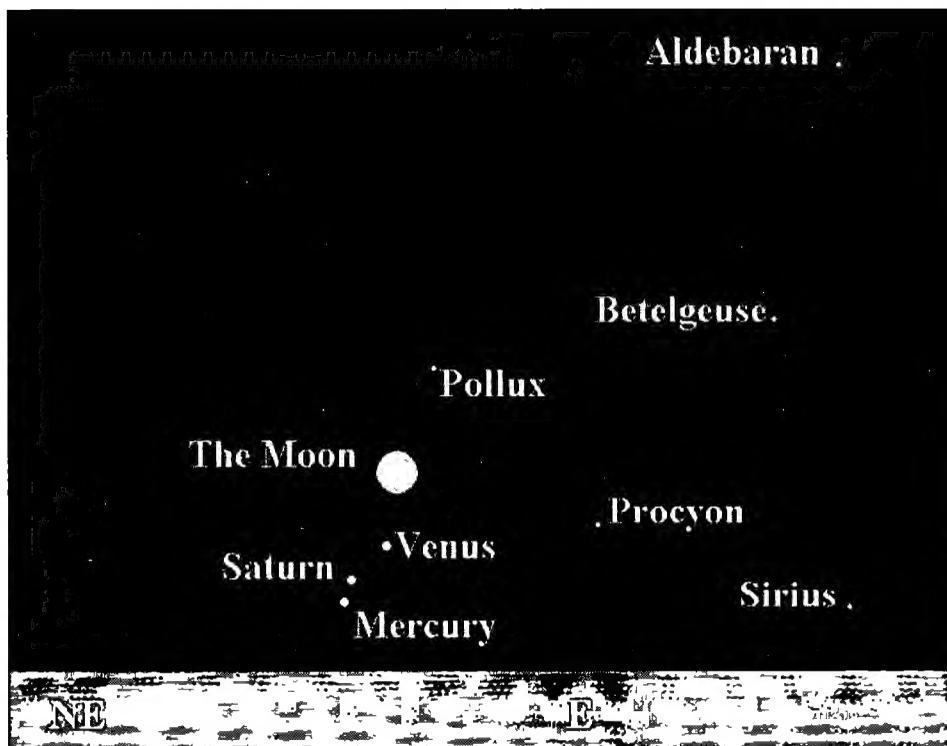
Mars (magnitude 1.8 to 1.7): In Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will not be observable until December. For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will become lost in the evening twilight by midmonth.

Jupiter (magnitude -1.9 to -1.8): In Libra. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will be very low in the west-southwest during evening twilight, and will set in the west-southwest about 2 hours after the Sun. For more favored southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will stand about 35 degrees high in the west at the end of evening twilight and will set about 4 hours after the Sun in the west-southwest.

Bright planets (morning sky)

Venus (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Leo to Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will be very low in the east-northeast during morning twilight. For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will become lost early in the month in the bright east-northeast morning twilight sky.

Saturn (magnitude 0.4 to 0.5): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will continue to rise higher in the morning sky. By month's end Saturn will stand about 25 degrees high in the east at the beginning of morning twilight. For less favored southern



Planetary grouping Sept. 20, 2006, before sunrise.

hemisphere observers, Saturn will emerge in the morning twilight in the east-northeast during the first half of the month, and by month's end will stand less than 10 degrees high at the beginning of morning twilight..

Zodiacal light

Zodiacal light will be visible in northern latitudes in the east before the start of morning twilight from Sept. 21 to Oct. 5. The phenomenon is visible only from very dark locations.

Zodiacal light is sunlight bouncing off dust grains in our solar system. Look for a pyramid of light in the morning sky somewhat like the light from a city or town just over the horizon.

Conjunctions and occultations:

Sept. 1: Antares 0.5 degrees north of the Moon.

Sept. 5: Venus 0.8 degrees north of Regulus.

Sept. 19: Saturn 2.0 degrees south of the Moon.

Sept. 24: Mercury 1.8 degrees north

of the Moon.

Sept. 24: Spica 0.5 degrees north of the Moon.

Sept. 26: Jupiter 5.0 degrees north of the Moon.

Sept. 28: Antares 0.5 degrees north of the Moon.